

FOREWORD

This report provides data on selected characteristics of State assistance programs for **SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME** (SSI) recipients as of **January 1, 1999**. The programs are **OPTIONAL** state supplementation of Federal SSI payments, State assistance for special needs, and Medicaid. The characteristics selected are those, about which the Social Security Administration (SSA) receives questions most often from individuals, public and private organizations, Federal, and State agencies.

The report focuses on eligibility provisions and basic levels of assistance for individuals and couples who receive supplementary payments in each State and in the District of Columbia. Data are also presented on Federal-State administrative responsibilities for making payments, State criteria for special need payments; and on Medicaid eligibility.

In addition, four appendices are included in this report. Appendices A and B contain tables which present information by State on the:

- Administration of mandatory and optional supplementation;
- Method of passalong;
- Participation in the Interim Assistance Reimbursement Program;
- Medicaid eligibility criteria and determination;
- Medically needy programs for aged, blind, and disabled; and
- Whether the Social Security Administration obtains information on unpaid medical expenses.

Appendix C provides data on the number of people receiving State optional supplementation in each State by living arrangement and eligibility category. Appendix D provides definitions of the State living arrangements presented.

This report was prepared in the Office of Research, Evaluation and Statistics, Division of SSI Statistics and Analysis, by Sherry L. Barber, program analyst, who also collected and compiled the data.

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